



Environmental Justice



What is Environmental Justice?

Signed in 1994, Executive Order (EO) 12898 establishes a federal policy on Environmental Justice (EJ). It requires that federal actions be evaluated for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations, and to avoid disproportionate impacts where possible. The EO also specifies that these groups must not be denied benefits from federal actions and policies.

What Does It Mean for Disaster Assistance?

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies providing disaster assistance must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Applicants may be asked to provide data to help FEMA evaluate possible adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations. For most projects involving repairs to restore a facility to its pre-disaster condition, environmental justice will probably not be an issue. However, hazard mitigation projects involving the purchases of property and/or the relocation of people away from hazards may warrant a review of the environmental justice impacts.



How Can Environmental Justice Impacts be Determined?

When assessing a project's environmental justice impacts two questions must be asked:

- ☒ First, does the affected community include minority and/or low-income populations?
- ☒ Second, are there projected adverse impacts to the community? If so, are these likely to fall disproportionately on minority and/or low-income members of these communities?

If your answer to both questions is "yes," mitigation measures or other methods to address these effects should be developed as part of the project.



Additional Resources

CalOES Factsheets

[Endangered Species Act](#)
[Environmental Rules](#)
[Historic Properties](#)
[Wetlands Protection](#)

Websites

Cal OES
www.caloes.ca.gov
FEMA
www.fema.gov
U.S. Census
www.census.gov
Demographic Research,
CA Dept. of Finance
www.dof.ca.gov



Danger! Warning!!

Failure to comply with environmental regulations can result in deobligations of federal/state funding.



QUESTIONS?

Monique Wilber
Senior Environmental Planner
(916) 845-8176
monique.wilber@caloes.ca.gov

